



THE WAR OF 1812

In the early 19th century, tensions were high between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Trade restrictions, expansion oppositions, and involuntary military servitude were just some of the international issues that led to the War of 1812.

By 1814, British forces had made their way along the Chesapeake as part of a campaign to snuff out American opposition. In late August they successfully swept through Washington, burning down the White House and leaving a trail of destruction in their wake.

On September 12th, the conflict came to a head here at North Point as the British Army attempted to march up into Baltimore.

As you approached this station, you were facing east. The sun rose on this historic day from the east as well.

*Continue down the path in this direction to find the meadow where British troops would have stood, as well as another bulletin board and your next clue! Use the **year of the Chesapeake conflict** to open the next letterbox!*



THE BRITISH ARMY

The British land army of approximately 4000 troops was originally led by General Robert Ross, one of the men responsible for the infamous burning of Washington.

His role in the campaign came to an end when he was struck down by Maryland forces during the opening skirmish here at the Battle of North Point.

Legend has it that credit for this tactical victory goes to Militia Privates Daniel Wells and Henry McComas.

However, this alone wasn't enough to stop the advance of the British army.

By 3:00pm, British forces had come back together by the order of their new commanding officer: Colonel Arthur Brooke. The Battle of North Point was only just getting started.

Prior to Ross' death, Brooke was originally in charge of the 44th Regiment of the Foot.

*March by foot onto the center path to find an interesting sign and your next clue! Use the **number of British troops** to open the next letterbox!*



THE BATTLE OF BALTIMORE

From this location, you'll be facing Fort McHenry if you turn directly around.

Maryland's ground forces dealt with the British here at North Point, while the Navy dealt with the British at Fort McHenry.

As the battle unfolded, Washington lawyer Francis Scott Key observed the bombardment from a vantage point on the truce ship HMS Tonnant.

For 25 hours the British bombarded the fort, but in the end they failed to make progress towards Baltimore due to lack of ammunition.

At dawn on September 14th, Francis Scott Key noticed that the American flag was still flying high over the fort. This gesture indicated an American victory, and the inspirational scene led to the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner.

*O say can you see? A Star-Spangled Banner waves o'er the land
here at the Battlefield!*

*Follow the sidewalk towards the banner and look for a
suspicious object at its base to find your next clue! Use the **date**
(MM/DD) of the star-spangled dawn to open the next letterbox!*



THE MARYLAND STATE MILITIA

Led by Brigadier General John Stricker, it was the Maryland Militia's duty to defend Baltimore from the oncoming advance of the British troops.

When the main battle began, American troops utilized cover to carry out a steady assault on the incoming British infantry. In turn, the British were able to flank the American troops, but at the severe cost of many frontline casualties.

General Stricker noticed that the British had cracked his defenses. The militia was ordered to retreat, but they continued to fire on the enemy as they withdrew. This tactical maneuver proved effective; the British sustained even more casualties and the Americans remained relatively safe.

At the end of the day, the British army managed to advance within a mile of the main American position. However, numerous and significant casualties rendered them unable to follow through with their planned assault on Baltimore.

The British troops had forced an American retreat, but the stalwart defense of the Maryland Militia prevented them from making their way to Baltimore. The unwavering tenacity of these American heroes is celebrated every 12th of September in honor of their legacy here at North Point.

*Congratulations, you've earned a tactical victory here at
North Point!*

*Fall back to the North Point State Battlefield sign to redeem
your prize! Honor the memory of your achievement by using the
date of Defender's Day (MM/DD) to open the final letterbox.*